

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each of the Florida's five water management districts has been charged with the preparation of an update to its respective *1995 District Water Management Plan* (DWMP) (SFWMD, 1995a). The DWMP is a compilation of information from many sources that is used to define the role of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD, District) in water resource management, and provides comprehensive, long-range direction and guidance for the actions of the District in implementing its responsibilities under state and federal laws. By establishing the District's long-term goals, issues, objectives, strategies, schedules, and performance measures, the DWMP is necessarily linked with the District's *Strategic Plan*, the *Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan*, and the annual budgeting process.

Within the DWMP, the District has identified and described six major efforts as being its main priorities into the foreseeable future. These six efforts are (the order does not imply priority level): operation, maintenance, and modernization of the existing Central and Southern Florida Project for Flood Control and Other Purposes (C&SF Project); regional water resource planning and implementation; Kissimmee River restoration; Lake Okeechobee restoration; Everglades restoration; and the implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The DWMP also identifies a series of water management infrastructural projects that are necessary in order to accomplish these six major priorities.

The status of activities planned in the previous DWMP (SFWMD, 1995a) are presented, along with the goals, resource assessments, issues, objectives, strategies and performance measures for each area of responsibility. The District's four major areas of responsibility are water supply, flood protection, water quality, and natural systems.

The DWMP also facilitates the tracking and reporting of the District's accomplishments by including performance measures. These measures will describe the District's performance, both in terms of the District's delivery of services, and in terms of the impacts of those activities on the water resources that the District is trying to improve. Core performance measures were agreed upon through extensive meetings between the Executive Office of the Governor, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the state's five water management districts. These will be used by all five of the state's water management districts as of October 1, 1999. The District also developed additional performance measures specifically for the SFWMD.

In addition to discussing the water resource issues by area of responsibility, the DWMP also provides a watershed management analysis. This analysis integrates the goals, issues, objectives, and strategies from the four major areas of responsibility for each of the District's four planning areas: Lower East Coast (LEC), Lower West Coast (LWC), Upper East Coast (UEC), and Kissimmee Basin.

The District's water management planning process includes the creation of integrated county water management plans that enhance the overall linkage of land and water management responsibilities. The development of integrated county plans has been

postponed for a year. This postponement is in keeping with the direction received from the FDEP, in order to facilitate county specific involvement, and allow the District to better identify individual county needs and appropriate strategies.

The DWMP is not intended to be a self-executing document. The general directives described in the DWMP provide the District's interpretation regarding the State Water Policy. These directives are not rules of the SFWMD, although they should be used to guide the District's future rulemaking efforts, and existing rules should be evaluated for consistency with the priorities described in the DWMP. SFWMD rules are one of several tools for implementing the DWMP. Other implementation tools include planning, research, operations and maintenance, and land acquisition.